



Issaquah School District

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Pacific Cascade Freshman Campus
Site Council Minutes - Approved
February 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Condee Holbrook at 2:50 pm. The following were present: Susan Lammers, Karin Allen, Ruth Thompson, Steve Simpson, Christina Morris, Mary Beth Jones, Mara Brashem, Lisa Brashem, Judy Bowlby, Beth Metcalf, John Lynn

Minutes: October minutes approved as changed. November minutes approved as read.

New Business: District Mission and End Statement – Condee Holbrook

- 80% of students doing very well, 10-15% still struggling
- Principal's meet to come up with a rational to make sure that every student is doing well and learning and prepared for after high school.
- Outside facilitator brought in, to work with principal's to help them develop their ideas into 5 concepts – Access, Connectivity, Citizenship, Resiliency, Expression
- Decided to get input from community members, met with small focus groups at high schools – groups made up of students, staff and parents from Liberty, Tiger Mountain, Skyline and Issaquah High Schools.
- Staff at PCFC discussed one of the concepts at the last staff meeting.
- Dana and Condee wanted to get feedback from Site Council in the form of a Socratic Seminar – notes follow.

Scope Committee

- What is time commitment?
- E-news – information will be sent, applications etc.
- Post at school
- Information sent in ISD Newsletter and Issaquah Press

Academics – Beth Metcalf

- Language Arts TOSA hired to work with high school English teachers to work on Scope & Sequence.

Site Council IHS

- Bids are due March 3rd
- Will be ready for 9th graders in 2010
- ASB hosting a 9th grade night for parents and students at IHS – TBA

Loose Change to Loosen Chains fundraiser will be starting soon. Barcelona will be at PCFC April 3rd.

Socratic Seminar:

In what ways does our school provide students opportunities for Access, Connectivity, Citizenship, Resiliency and Expression?

In what ways does our school not provide students opportunities for Access, Connectivity, Citizenship, Resiliency and Expression, and what may have been the obstacles?

Access – provides electives, different clubs, sports, ROTC, music for students.

Con – because of the high requirements for graduation, there are not enough electives offered to students..

Access – most teachers are accessible for students during non school hours.

Con – Because of the A, B schedule offered at Liberty, there are more choices for electives for students.

District falls down with transportation, some busses arrive to close to the first bell and leave 8 minutes after school. Students don't always have time to stop and ask questions with their teachers.

Connectivity – very connected to their home high school, they make new friends at PCFC but don't realize it until they've moved on. Need to devise a way for them to realize the connections they are making while at PCFC.

Access – teaching staff, campus, facilities, resources – fantastic.

Con - One year is too short

Con – Graduation requirements very stiff, how do students get everything they need?

Expression – Challenge Day really brought students, parents and staff together. Students going to high school for drama is a plus.

Con – students can't participate in high school programs, so they don't feel they are part of a high school.

Resiliency – PCFC provides a protective bubble, but for such a short time.

Access – It's great that there are 3 different choices offered for English, different math levels all wonderful. Classes offered at high schools for some students a plus.

Citizenship – when community service is forced, it takes the fun and joy out of it.

Community Service has too tight rules and regulations.

Connectivity – block classes develop as family, great connections with students.

Con - To many students in some classes, hard to connect with so many students.

Sports – students can't sit with their PCFC friends at sporting events if it isn't their home high school.

Community Service – seems that the parameters are so strict, that students are going through the motions to get hours checked off. They aren't getting anything out of it.

Connectivity – staff works very hard as a faculty to make sure that each student connects with one adult. But students don't always think that the connection is a good thing or that they have a connection with anyone. New ideas?? Students need to feel more connected.

Connectivity – how many of students want to be connected? Do they actually see the value or purpose of being connected? Spanish teachers have good rapport with tutors for students, teachers are available for students but students aren't always available for the teacher. Idea: 30 minute tutorial after school, teacher can require students to stay after to meet with teachers about issues, get help etc.

Resiliency –PCFC Spanish teachers provide a very safe learning environment to be successful and to fail without being crushed. First few assignment, graded easily, then graded to the full extent.

Access – an ideal school would have a different schedule not driven by transportation. Different schedules, student and staff choose which schedule they want to work / attend. There is a lack of choice and flexibility. Students this age do better if they can start later.

Add a 7th class during the day, this would add more options for graduation requirements. Would open up class choices for more electives.

Teachers accessible and approachable would like to see the 9th grade campus stay as is. Middle schools don't prepare students enough for high school.

Access – teachers are very willing to work with all students and their different learning styles. Being available before school, during lunch and after school. Adding a 7th period would add choices for students and enable them to pursue interests.

Citizenship – Honor Society members are the only students required to do community service. Needs to be a push to inform students about service and open up the boundaries, not be so rigid. Building a life long love of giving back to the community is important.

More motivation for students to find their passion and make it grow, give back to the community.

Access - email is a great friend, great communicator.
Con - Grading on line can be confusing to parents.

Connectivity – after school activities and programs are great,
Con - unfortunately most electives can't be taken until sophomore or junior year.

Expression – spirit week, assemblies, talent shows are great. Feeling of a safe cocoon to express their selves.

Citizenship – Citizenship is not just about service, it's an obligation to be an active member of a community. Look at other cultures of the world, helps to understand our own

culture. We live in a sheltered community; need to expose students to other cultures. Community service is an opportunity to participate in programs about other cultures. Con - Service is more for getting into college than the fulfillment. How many students come to Honor Society come because they feel they need to be there not because it's a passion?

Officers – want students to acknowledge their part in their lives, students have no idea what citizenship truly means. SRO's coming to talk about citizenship, what does it mean to be a part of a community. Is it age related? Some 9th graders are ready to step out and do something, for other's it comes later.

Student had to drop her passion about a certain service to accomplish the requirement for health.

Students getting stressed out trying to get everything done to get into college.

Students feel Honor Society is a way to please parents, get into good college.

Longer school days – Great idea, but how will that work with younger students living at home? More time to accomplish goals, longer class time, not every day.

Barrier about citizenship,

Liberty has a very flexible schedule, students love it. Many choices of electives available for them.

8 period day has been talked about. This will help de-stress students.

We are not supplying our students with the optimal high school experience if they are feeling stressed out and suffering from hyper-tension.

Liberty has A week and B week, 4 classes each day. International school in Bellevue has the same and both are considered very successful.

Change the daily schedule - All classes every day, but different time each day. Math at 7:40 one day, but at 9:30 the next day.